













# THE JERUSALEM POST

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**THE Tenth Anniversary** of the State of Israel has been noteworthy for the number of successful conferences, but it is perhaps significant that none of these attracted as many non-Jews as the First International Farmers Convention which ended yesterday.

The overwhelming majority of the 300 delegates from 31 countries were attracted, not by Zionism or Jewishness, but by the fact that farmers whose interest was aroused. In fact, most of the advertising was confined, not to the Jewish or general press, but to highly specialized agricultural journals.

The Convention was successful far beyond the expectations of the organizers. Like the Afro-Asian Seminar on Co-operation, the Farmers Convention attracted many delegates from the "under-developed" countries of Asia and Africa. It is clear that these emergent nations, even younger in their independence than Israel, find that this country has much to offer them in the way of useful experience in their struggle to raise their standards of living. There is no better cement to international understanding than mutual interest; it seems that the new countries feel that they can use as models such projects as the Yarkon deviation, the drainage of the Hula and the settlement of Lachish and of the Negev. The gay robes of Ghanaian and other African peoples have become welcome commonplaces in the Capital. A new and popular addition to our friends from abroad is the delegation from Cyprus; most of these delegates were making their first trip off their island.

Apart from visitors from the "under-developed" countries, there were numerous delegations from lands that might even be described as "over-developed," such as the United States, England, Holland and Belgium. (Several European countries, but for some reason not the United States, were officially represented.) Israel's agriculture cannot claim to reach the standard of farming in these countries, but our farmers are working on scientific lines and all the visitors were patently impressed, and even amazed, by the massive accomplishments here.

From the addresses by the very distinguished panel of speakers — this included two Ministers of Agriculture, a Parliamentary Secretary, four directors-general and a professor Lowdermilk, apart from the Israelis — it is apparent that agriculture throughout the Western world is undergoing a technological revolution. The widespread use of fertilizers, irrigation, selective breeding of cattle and chickens and selective planting are transforming yields and creating surpluses.

It seems that even Israeli agriculture is due to face this problem, if indeed it is not already with us. But in Israel large sections of the population are not eating sufficient animal protein, vegetables and milk foods; they eat bread, the wheat of which costs us \$100 a year. An extensive programme of re-education and publicity to sell accumulating surpluses, so as to reduce prices of produce by increasing turnover seems long overdue. Clearly the era of shortage and rationing is at an end; the country's producers are to be congratulated on transforming the position so completely in so short a time. Few people would have believed seven years ago that by the end of the country's first decade our farmers would face the same marketing problems as their fellow-agriculturalists in the West.

When it is remembered that only 81 years ago the idea of Jews returning to the soil in their Homeland was considered utterly absurd, the achievements of our farmers, which reached so triumphant a success as the recent Conference, are all the more remarkable. Perhaps "push-button farming" is not quite what A.D. Gordon had in mind, but agriculture is agriculture, whether effected with hoe and muscle or tractor and test-tube.

**IRAQ BANS FILMS**  
 MADE IN EGYPT

The Arab News Agency reported that the Iraq Film Censorship Board on Monday banned the screening of all Egyptian films because they were "trivial."

## Asians Disappointed by Russian Aid

### U.A.R., Other States Worried by Increased Dependence

By JESSE ZEL LURIE  
 Jerusalem Post Correspondent

**WASHINGTON.** — THE deadly game of "Wh-A-Communist," which the witch-hunters used to play in the corridors of the State Department not too long ago, is now the chief occupation of those Middle East "experts" who keep their eyes peeled at far-off Baghdad. The State Department takes the view outlined by Mr. E. W. Kenworthy in "The New York Times":

"Officials here believe that Communist control will now be tightened and extended as a result of the appointment of Dhammar Ayyub as the Director-General of Guidance and Broadcasting. Ayyub was in exile in Vienna during the regime of Nuri e-Said. He has been an active Communist since 1935."

Mr. Kenworthy's conclusion was that while Communist influence was increasing, the State Department was still hopeful that Premier Abdul Karim Kassem would be able to prevent a Communist takeover in Iraq.

No one can be blamed for hoping. The question remains whether this hope is based on any solid facts beyond the contradictory opinions on "Who's a Communist" quoted above.

There is one man here who believes he has such facts. He is Dr. Robert Loring Loring, Associate Professor of Economics at the nearby University of Virginia, who has made a study of Middle Eastern trade with the Soviet Union.

Dr. Loring found that though the Soviet Union has extended credits totalling \$1,500 million to Arab states in the last five years, these countries "have been disappointed and frustrated in their economic relations with the Soviet Union. These disappointments have been the result of the techniques employed and over the heavy dependence which is developing, and have become increasingly sensitive to the political implications of the trade."

**Goods Overpriced**  
 Dr. Loring lists the many complaints against the Soviet traders. They overprice their exports while at the same time paying premium prices for Arab goods. Egypt was momentarily satisfied with receiving high prices until she found that she had lost the advantage of the Hula and the settlement of Lachish and of the Negev. The gay robes of Ghanaian and other African peoples have become welcome commonplaces in the Capital. A new and popular addition to our friends from abroad is the delegation from Cyprus; most of these delegates were making their first trip off their island.

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from the West. It became apparent to Egypt that its trading position had deteriorated. Soviet deliveries are another complaint; they result in an export surplus of non-convertible balances "not even transferable among the Communist countries." While arms have been shipped with alacrity, "delivery of goods for development purposes is now only about 15 to 20 per cent complete."

In addition, Communist goods have proved inferior to their Western counterparts. They break down more often and servicing and spare parts are not easily available. Then there are disputes with Soviet technicians. On the Aswan Dam, the Soviet engineers insist on saving money by digging open ditches rather than diversion tunnels which the plans call for.

**Soviet Oil**  
 That Soviet trade with the Middle East is artificially engendered for political purposes may be deduced not only from the economic difficulties enumerated above. Deeper into the basic economic relations of the two areas, one finds that the competitive rather than complementary.

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Middle East is oil, almost all of which goes to Europe. Soviet oil production is now two-thirds that of the Middle East and growing fast. Soviet crude is penetrating the European market in ever-growing proportion. A new pipeline to Finland has just been completed and Soviet tankers ply the Baltic to Scandinavia and other parts.

Cotton, which is Egypt's chief export, is another major item in the Soviet drive for self-sufficiency. According to Professor Loring, the Soviet Union in 1957 exported three times as much cotton as it imported, and in 1958, six times as much.

Professor Loring thus proves what every political observer guessed long ago: The economic relations between the Middle East and the Communist world stem from economic motives and capabilities of the latter, and more from Soviet political necessities and objectives.

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in the Middle East. 2. The Arab world was initially attracted by the potential benefits of Communist efforts. 3. Communist trade performance has been disappointing. 4. There is little economic basis for a higher level of trade. In fact, if the current political differences are solved, economic considerations may force a retrenchment. 5. The Soviet Union has become embroiled in inter-Arab rivalry which must necessarily jeopardize its relations with one side or the other. 6. The U.A.R. has awakened the political interest of the Soviet Union has been successful in the Middle East and may have reached the zenith of its influence in Egypt and Syria. In Iraq, the Soviets face a dilemma where they lose either way. If the Communists press home to take over the country, Kassem may draw closer to Nasser. If Egypt and Iraq get together, "then Soviet influence will probably decline, as it did in Syria."

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Father Snyder with his host, Mr. Eliezer Baruch of Sde Yacov.

## Trappist Monk at Farmers Convention

By PHILIP GILLON

It seems a far cry from the majestic quiet of a Trappist monastery, with its air of meditation protected by the monks' oath of silence, to the strident vivacity of modern Jerusalem. A little town of Nature makes the whole world kin; common interest in the soil and the Bible has united Father Thomas Snyder, a Trappist monk from Holland, to an Israeli family in a moshav.

To attend the Farmers Convention Father Thomas was given special permission by the monks' oath of silence, to the strident vivacity of modern Jerusalem. A little town of Nature makes the whole world kin; common interest in the soil and the Bible has united Father Thomas Snyder, a Trappist monk from Holland, to an Israeli family in a moshav.

Father Thomas' interest in Israel derives both from agriculture and from his passion for the Bible. The 50 monks in his monastery farm 150 acres; they have 50 milch cows and 20 calves. In addition they grow their own vegetables and other crops; they sell the milk but generally farm for their own consumption.

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## AT THE CINEMA

Gigi (Ester, Tel Aviv) is excellent entertainment. With the Lerner-Lowe (My Fair Lady) team supplying the lively lyrics and the sparkling music, this film version of Colette's novel is one of the best musicals we have seen. Vincente Minnelli's direction is tactful and Cecil De Mille's decor and costumes give the right touch of opulence to the Paris scene of the nineties.

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